

Member Champion: Cycling and Sustainable Transport

Annual Report 2014/ 2015

Keeping the issues at the forefront of Council business:

I chair the Cardiff Liaison Cycle Group, which has representatives from about 16 agencies, charities, social enterprises and Council officers with cycling as their main focus. This year I started meeting the Director of the Environment and the Cabinet Member for Planning, Highways and Transport after the Liaison Group meeting to feed back issues discussed.

Through this we have lobbied for cycling and sustainable transport to be taken into account, particularly over the development of Central Square and the new city centre Transport Hub focussing on the Central Railway Station. I have met with the Director and senior officers in Transport and City Centre Development.

I raise the profile of cycling and sustainable transport by writing letters to the South Wales Echo, via Twitter & email contacts e.g. highlighting National Bike Week 2015 and helping engage Councillors in the annual Commute Challenge. Cycling rates in Cardiff are steadily increasing and the Council transportation team and the Cardiff Cycling Campaign have statistics to verify this.

I have started to circulate minutes of the Cycle Liaison Group more widely to other Council departments who may find the information and links of interest e.g. officers in the youth service, parks service and strategic and neighbourhood planning teams.

I also attend the Cardiff Access Forum facilitated by the Equalities Team and ensure that the cycling interest is taken into account. Many cities are now planning new developments with segregated cycling routes with a policy move away from shared pedestrian / cycling areas. This is welcomed by people with disabilities, particularly those with sight loss.

Through the Cycle Liaison Group I have maintained and developed engagement with interest and lobby groups with an interest / stake in the areas covered and the external bodies that work in this area. A big development this year has been the formation of the Cardiff Cycling City initiative. The group is a loose collective of people who cycle and informal monthly meetings are convened at a central location.

Outside speakers have been invited to Cardiff to make the Authority and cyclists in Cardiff aware of good practice in other cities in Britain and on the Continent. Through well attended drop-by sessions and interactive workshops the Cardiff Cycle City initiative has come up with a 'cycling manifesto' for Cardiff to which over 800 people who cycle have contributed. I have attended all the sessions and ensure that relevant Council officers are aware of the developments.

I am engaged with the inter-city initiative Bicycle Account group, and maintain contact with the Cardiff Cycling Campaign whose members are generally well informed on infrastructure matters.

I respond to relevant Council consultations, such as Cycling in Parks.

Work in progress:

- Living Streets: I made contact with this pedestrian focussed charity setting up in Cardiff to provide a voice for people who walk as their main means of getting around.
- I need to develop links with bus user groups, this is in the early stages.
- I attend the Health and Well Being team of the South West Neighbourhood Partnership team to encourage their promotion of active travel.
- I am disseminating the link to the Active Travel Plan – walking and cycling routes consultation, and hope there will be a good response from people who cycle and walk regularly.

Councillor / Cynghorydd Iona Gordon
July 2015